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ABSTRACT

During the first year of this six-year study, 170 seniors of Sandy Union High School in Sandy, Oregon, were divided into four groups on the basis of their high school course work. The students were classified as either vocational completers (32), vocational explorers (69), general academic (25), or college preparatory (33). The second part of the survey was conducted in July of 1986, approximately 13 months after the students left school. Ninety-two percent of the original 170 students surveyed were contacted. Of those contacted, 38.2 percent were employed full-time, 25.7 percent were working part-time, 9.0 percent were in the military, 6.25 percent were unemployed, and 3.5 percent were still finishing high school. Regarding the students' postsecondary educational status, 41.6 percent were attending school full-time, 9.7 percent were attending part-time, and 48.7 percent had not attended any postsecondary school. Of those attending school, 25 percent attended a four-year college, 21 percent attended a community college, and 6 percent attended a business or technical school. Of the vocational completers, 64.3 percent of those attending school were taking a program of study related to their high school vocational program and 55.7 percent of those employed were working in a job directly related to their high school vocational program. The average monthly wage of those working full-time was $766. Ninety-one percent of the vocational completers felt that their high school vocational programs were valuable. Although the students were satisfied with the job search training when asked about it while still in school, they now felt that more such training would have been useful. (MN)

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JAN 22 1987

FINAL REPORT

for

"FOLLOW-UP FOR PROGRAM IMPROVEMENT"

A SIX-YEAR LONGITUDINAL STUDY, PART TWO, ONE YEAR AFTER LEAVING SCHOOL

conducted at

Sandy Union High School

by

W. A. Rumbaugh, Ph.D.

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A FINAL REPORT FOR THE SECOND PART IN A LONG-RANGE FOLLOW UP OF THE 1985 SENIOR CLASS AT SANDY UNION HIGH SCHOOL

How the Study was Conducted:

In cooperation with the Oregon State Department of Education, a follow-up study was begun with the 1985 senior class at Sandy Union High School. Two different evaluation instruments were used: a vocational form for those who had taken vocational courses during their years at Sandy Union High School, and a similar, but different, form for those seniors who had not taken vocational exploratory or preparation programs.

The questions asked in the Sandy High School survey were selected from survey instruments previously given 615 senior vocational students and to 307 senior academic students at 12 different high schools in Oregon in 1982. Two of these schools were as large as Sandy Union High School (1200 students and larger), six were medium size (500-1200 students), and four were smaller schools (under 500 students). This state-wide survey was conducted by the Northwest Regional Educational Laboratory in April-May of 1982. A comparison between the state-wide results and Sandy High seniors was possible. All Sandy High seniors who were enrolled in Sandy High School civics classes in May of 1985 were asked to complete the survey form. There were 170 who did actually complete either the vocational or non-vocational form.

The Part Two study was conducted in July, 1986, approximately 13 months after the Class of 1985 left school. A mail-out form was sent to all of the 170 ex-students who had filled out the original survey conducted while they were in school in May of 1985. To date, November 5, 1986, over 157 (92%) have been located and information on their employment and/or schooling has been obtained. Some very important facts have been obtained

from this study regarding the type of jobs they have secured, the post-secondary training they are taking, and of primary importance, their evaluation of their high school education programs.

The original survey was conducted with 170 senior students who were divided into four different categories depending upon the subjects they had taken while in school; there were:

Vocational Completers, which was determined to be a person who took one or more advanced vocational program in their junior and/or senior years. This group actually completed an average of 6.88 vocational classes.

Vocational Explorers, which was defined as persons who did not take advanced vocational classes during their junior or senior years. This group actually completed an average of 3.39 vocational exploratory classes during their freshman and sophomore years.

General Academic, which was defined as someone who took no vocational classes and did not pursue any advanced math, science, or English courses.

College Preparatory, which was defined as those who did pursue advanced classes in math, science and English.

Of the 110 vocational completers and explorers, we have the following distribution as to vocational program areas:

VOCATIONAL PROGRAM	VOCATIONAL COMPLETERS	VOCATIONAL EXPLORERS	TOTAL NO.	% of SUHS VOCATIONAL ENROLLMENT
Agriculture	7	2	9	8.0 %
Marketing	0	17	17	15.4 %
Accounting	6	12	18	16.3 %
Clerical	3	4	7	6.3 %
Secretarial	4	7	11	10.0 %
Mechanics	8	5	13	12.0 %
Construction	3	2	5	4.5 %
Electricity/Electronics	3	1	4	3.6 %
Metals	4	3	7	6.3 %
Child Care	0	1	1	1.0 %
Drafting	0	5	5	4.5 %
Forest Products	4	0	4	3.6 %
Diversified Occupations	0	3	3	2.7 %
General Business	0	3	3	2.7 %
Industrial Arts	0	3	3	2.7 %
	42	68*	110	

*One vocational explorer was not listed in the program category of computer print-out.

The following program distribution of students with handicaps was obtained from the survey:

PERCENTAGE OF HANDICAPPED STUDENTS IN PROGRAM			
VOCATIONAL COMPLETERS	VOCATIONAL EXPLORERS	GENERAL ACADEMICS	COLLEGE PREP
11.9 %	7.2 %	12.0 %	3.0 %

The Survey Method:

Since this study was based upon a virtually complete sample of the seniors about ready to leave school at Sandy Union High School, any significant findings will be of a relative importance, particularly since each one of the groups (Vocational Completers, Vocational Explorers, General Academics and College Preparatory) is of sufficient size to be a valid sample (above 20).

This study is the second in a long-term, six-year follow-up which will be conducted at one (the current study), three, and five-year intervals. All students who filled out the first evaluation study were made aware of our school's intent to conduct this follow-up. Previous studies conducted by the author have shown that this explanation prior to any follow-up enhanced the percentage of returns and the attitude toward the follow-up in general.

Since the results of the first survey are on a computer tape at Oregon State University under the supervision of Mr. Warren Suzuki, Vocational Research Specialist, we were able to compare answers given by students after leaving school for one year as related to their earlier answers. The follow-up instrument used for the one-year follow-up contains questions dealing with some of the questions included in the original survey while in school. In cases where a comparison is available, we placed the current findings next to the answers the group gave the year prior to leaving school. Information is available, therefore, on what they thought they would be doing one year after high school compared to what they were actually doing now, and ten items evaluating certain aspects of their instructional program while in school.

The Findings:

Item 1. What is your current employment status (What have you been doing this year?)?

38.2 % Employed full-time (30 hours or more a week)

25.7 % Employed part-time (less than 30 hours a week)

9.0 % Military service

6.25% Unemployed, but actively seeking employment

3.5 % Unemployed, not seeking employment

In the original survey conducted before they left school in 1985, the following question was asked:

What is the one thing that most likely will take the largest share of your time in the year after you leave high school?

8.8 % Working full-time

24.8 % Working part-time

27.2 % Entering an apprenticeship or on-the-job training program

39.2 % Going into the military service or service academy.

If you combine their projections of going into apprenticeship (27.2%) with working full-time (8.8%) to equal 36%, it is not far from what actually happened (38.2%). Unrealistically an overly large number (39.2%) indicated they thought they would end up in the military while only 9% actually did join.

The former students were asked to list their job titles, duties, company name and address. The list of jobs held by the respondents follows (see next page):

JOBS HELD BY THE SANDY UNION HIGH SCHOOL CLASS OF 1985
IN THE SUMMER OF 1986 (RETURNS FROM 145 STUDENTS)

Welder
Army (5)
Department store sales clerk (10)
Video sales clerk (2)
Movie house employee
Parcel service loader
Crew chief at fast food restaurant
Gas station attendant (5)
Manufacturing plant employee
Secretary (4)
Receptionist
Waiter-waitress (3)
Apprentice electrician
Computer operator, lumber company
Farm hand
Pizza parlor worker (2)
Construction worker (5)
Air Force (2)
Food preparation worker (3)
Fast food employee (7)
Airlines reservation agent
Apprentice printer
Loading supervisor, wood products
Billing clerk
Nanny, hotel services
Mail clerk
Fish hatchery worker
Health club assistant
Bulb farm worker
Fire control work, forestry
Telephone repair, National Guard
Certified nursing assistant (2)
Equipment operator, construction
Petroleum transfer engineer
Laborer, logging (2)
Medical administrative assistant, Air Force
Cannery worker
Forestry aide
Model, department store
Press jogger, printing
Electronic sales
Tank turret repairer, Army
Navy (2)
Machinist (3)
Manager, fast food restaurant
Retreader
Grocery clerk
Delivery driver
Dental assistant
Actor
Cook (2)
Airlines ticket sales clerk
Student advising assistant, college
Teacher aide, day care center
Phone solicitor
Projectionist, movie house
Ski resort worker
Apprentice auto mechanic
Trailer manufacturing worker

Item 2. If you are working full-time (30 hours or more a week), what is your monthly income before taxes?

The answers ranged from a low of $500 to a high of over $1300 per month. The average turned out to be $765 per month.

Item 3. Is this job related to your high school vocational training (Vocational Completers only)?

56.7 % Yes

13.3 % No

13.3 % Military service

16.7 % Out of the labor market

Item 4. What is your current educational status (this past year)?

41.6 % Attending school full-time

9.7 % Attending school part-time

48.7 % Not attending school

In tabulating these results it is important to note that 25% of the students attended a 4-year college, 21% a 2-year community college, and 6% a business or technical school.

In the original survey conducted just before they left school in 1985, 18.8% indicated they planned on attending a business or technical school, 22.3% planned to attend a community college, and 30.8% indicated they planned on attending a 4-year college or university. This was a surprisingly accurate prediction!

Item 5. If you are attending school, is your program of study related to your high school vocational training (Vocational Completers only)?

64.3 % Yes

35.7 % No

Item 6. Do you feel that your high school vocational training was of value to you (Vocational Completers and Explorers only)?

91.0 % Yes

9.0 % No

Item 7. Who assisted you most in your choice of a career while in high school?

24.0 % Career Center

13.0 % Vocational cluster teachers

13.0 % General subject matter teachers (English, math, science, etc.)

13.0 % Friends and relatives

9.0 % Others

5.0 % School counselors

3.0 % Other teachers

1.0 % Employment agencies

1.0 % Local businessman/employer

Item 8. Based on your present experience, please write in the space below one course you wished you had taken while in high school.

The most often mentioned courses (8.1% of those returning the survey) were "more English and mechanics." Next in line in their wishes were more business courses, math, foreign languages, speech, photography, sewing, law and physics (5.4% of the respondents indicated those courses).

Also mentioned by 2.7% of those surveyed were shorthand, life sciences, religion, accounting, computers, journalism, psychology, marketing courses, a full year of typing instead of one semester, a vocabulary course, and racket sports.

Item 9. Which course or program has benefited you most in relationship to your present career goal?

English and psychology lead the list with 8.5% indicating so. Accounting, health, college credit English, electronics, and marketing classes were next on the most helpful list for 5.4% of the respondents. Also mentioned were the science programs, office procedures class, biology, chemistry, computers, math, forestry, home economics, sewing, kindercare, physics, creative writing, economics, business classes, woodworking and art. The same percentage of the respondents listed the cooperative work experience program, Vocational Industrial Clubs of America (VICA), and the student leadership program as most helpful.

A conclusion that might be drawn from this study is that students have many diverse needs to be satisfied in terms of education and career development. No clear leader was found in either the courses they wished they had taken during their high school years or the ones that seemed to help them the most a year later.

Item 10. How many times have you changed jobs since leaving high school?

Respondents averaged 1.01 job changes during the 13 months they were out of school.

Item 11. How satisfied are you with the following aspects of your high school vocational education program? Ratings to be given are:

1.00 - Very satisfied
2.00 - Satisfied
3.00 - Dissatisfied
4.00 - Very dissatisfied
0.00 - Don't know

Using this rating system, the following averages were obtained from the respondents:

Quality of the instruction	2.06
Counseling about careers	2.18
Knowing how to look for and obtain a job	2.35
Preparing a job resume	2.61
Interviewing for a job	2.42
Using reading skills to do job tasks	1.91
Using math skills to do job tasks	2.34
Understanding the importance of being productive on job	2.10
Overall, how satisfied are you with the vocational education you have received in high school (Vocational Completer group only)?	1.40
Overall, how satisfied are you with the general non-vocational education you have received in high school?	2.09

Significant Findings:

Item 1. Concerning their employment status, as expected a large number (25.7%) of the respondents were working part-time. This was, however, very close to what they had predicted for themselves in 1985 before they left school. On the other hand, 39.2% had indicated they were going in the military, but only 9% did so by 1986. Many (27.2%) had thought they were going to enter an apprenticeship or on-the-job training program, but the 1986 survey did not research this fact.

Fifty-nine separate job titles were listed for the 145 respondents. Experience with past follow-up studies has shown that as time passes, these diverse job titles become even more so.

Item 2. Concerning the average monthly wage earned by the respondents of $766.00/month, it will be interesting to see whether, after three

years, the average reaches $960.00/month. The significance of this relates to a previous survey done in 1980 which showed the Class of 1977 was averaging that amount.

Item 3. A significant finding here shows that a considerable number of respondents obtained a job directly related to their high school vocational program (55.7%). Previous studies have shown this to be about 40%.

Item 4. As related to their current educational status, it was found that we have a balanced student body when it comes to the number that go on immediately to further post-secondary training. There were 51.3% receiving some post-secondary training, while 48.7% were not attending any school. A previous study in 1980 showed that three years after leaving high school, 55% were attending some form of post-secondary training.

Item 5. More vocational students are attending educational programs related to their high school vocational programs than were found in a previous study (64.3% as opposed to 26% for the 1980 respondents).

Item 6. When asked to rate the value of their high school vocational education, the Vocational Completers group responded with a whopping 91% "yes." Previous studies have shown this to be about 80%. This was a significant finding.

Item 7. On the question of who assisted you most in the choice of a career, the Career Center rated first followed by vocational cluster teachers, general subject matter teachers, and friends and relatives.

Item 8. This item dealt with the subject they wished they had taken in high school. The highest ranking subjects were English and mechanics. No significant course actually rose to the top, however, as there were many courses listed.

Item 9. Responding to the question of what course benefited them most in relationship to their present career goal, English and psychology courses came out on top. Again, many courses were listed and no clear leaders can be detected.

Item 10. The average respondent changed jobs only once during the 13-month period they were out of school. The truth is that many actually continued working in a job they had acquired while in high school. The tight labor market undoubtedly contributes to the lack of mobility of our work force.

Item 11. Respondents were asked to rate certain aspects of their high school education on a scale of 1 to 4--with 1 being very satisfied, 2 satisfied, 3 dissatisfied, and 4 very dissatisfied.

One of the interesting findings in this item was the high rating (1.40) given their vocational program by the Vocational Completers group. This ranking placed them closer to the very satisfied category than satisfied.

Generally speaking, our students seem to be satisfied with the education they are receiving as evidenced by their ratings of the quality of instruction and general non-vocational education. As a general theme, they were more satisfied after being out of school 13 months than they were previously when the survey was conducted in May of 1985.

The ratings for knowing how to look for a job, preparing a job resume, and interviewing for a job by this Class of 1985 were not good however. An explanation is in order regarding these three items: In the spring of 1984 a cooperative program between the personal finance classes (mainly juniors) and the Career Center was instituted in order to train students in "employability skills." Only half of this Class of 1985 participated in this training. In subsequent classes, 1986 and 1987, all seniors will have completed this training which covers all of the aspects of looking for a job, preparing a resume, and interviewing techniques. Interviewing practice is provided by actually video-taping interviews with employers from the community, and a critiquing session immediately following. It is important that we address this matter as a matter of how school leavers feel about their training in these skills. Students, while in school, were generally satisfied with their employability-skill training. After being out of school they encountered the real world of employment and wished they had gotten more training. It behooves us to answer that call for help!

Recommendations Based on the Findings:

1. That this longitudinal study be continued at the third-year level in 1988, and the six-year level in 1991. At these times many respondents will have a better long-term look as to how effective we were in preparing them for careers and a statistical result can be obtained as to the number finishing post-secondary training.

2. That a continuing effort be expended to provide "employability skill" training. The respondents were definite in this regard!

OR 86 13108

APPENDIX C

BUDGET SUMMARY

Title of Project ~~FOLLOW UP STUDY, CLASS OF 1(1983~~

	Proj Funds Req	+ Other Proj Funds*	Source of Other Funds	= Total Proj Costs
A. 1000 Instruction				
100 Salaries				
200 Employee Benefits				
300 Travel/Other Purchased Svcs .				
400 Supplies				
Instruction Subtotal				
B. 2100 Support Services--Students**				
C. 2210 Improvement of Instructional Services				
100 Salaries	~~1139.36~~	200		1339.36
200 Employee Benefits	269.01			269.01
300 Travel/Other Purchased Svcs .	~~470.14~~			470.14
400 Supplies	12.63			12.63
Improvement of Instructional Services Subtotal				
D. 2220 Educational Media Services				
100 Salaries				
200 Employee Benefits				
300 Purchased Services				
400 Supplies				
Educational Media Services Subtotal				
E. 2500/2600 Support Services Business/Central				
Indirect Cost @ _____%				
Support Service Business and Central Subtotal				
F. Other (include explanation) . . .				
Other Subtotal				
COLUMN TOTAL	2000.00	200.00		2200.00

*Local and other funds available which serve similar purposes, or closely compliment the purposes of the funds requested for this project.

**Attach supplementary budget

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JAN 22 1987

SUMMARY

"PART TWO OF A SIX-YEAR, LONGITUDINAL STUDY OF THE SANDY UNION HIGH SCHOOL CLASS OF 1985 -- ONE YEAR AFTER LEAVING SCHOOL"

In cooperation with the Oregon State Department of Education, a follow-up study was begun with the 1985 senior class at Sandy Union High School, Sandy, Oregon. Before the students left school in May of 1985, 170 seniors filled out a survey form containing ten different items that required their response. These 170 students were divided into the following groups:

Thirty-two were classified as Vocational Completers which was determined to be a student who took one or more advanced vocational program in their junior or senior years. This group completed an average of 6.88 vocational classes. (Sandy High School had 13 vocational programs at that time.)

Sixty-nine of the students were classified as Vocational Explorers which was defined as those who did not take an advanced vocational class during their upperclassmen years. This group took an average of 3.39 vocational exploratory classes.

There were 25 students classified as General Academic which was defined as those who took no vocational classes and did not pursue any advanced math, science, or English classes.

Thirty-three students were classified as College Preparatory because they did pursue either advanced classes in math, science, or English.

Part Two of this long-term study was conducted in July, 1986, approximately 13 months after the Class of 1985 left school. A mail-out form was sent to all 170 ex-students who had filled out the original survey form while they were in school in May of 1985. To date, November 5, 1986, 92% have been located and information on their employment status and/or schooling has been obtained.

Concerning the employment status of these school-leavers, 38.2% were employed full-time, while 25.7% were working part-time (less than 30 hours per week). There were 6.25% found to be unemployed and 3.5% still finishing high school. Fifty-nine separate job titles were listed for the respondents.

Regarding their current post-secondary educational status, 41.6% were attending school full-time, 9.7% part-time, while 48.7% had not attended any school. Of the ones attending school, 25% attended a 4-year college, 21% a 2-year community college, and 6% a business or technical school.

Of the Vocational Completers who were attending school, 64.3% were taking a program of study related to their high school vocational program.

Of those respondents working, 55.7% were working in a job directly related to their high school vocational program. Previous studies have shown this to be about 40%.

The average monthly wage earned was $766 for those working full-time.

When asked to rate the value of their high school vocational programs, the Vocational Completers group responded with a whopping 91% indicating it was of value to them. Previous studies have shown this to be 80%.

On the question of who assisted them the most in the choice of a career, the Career Center rated first followed by vocational cluster teachers, general subject-matter teachers, friends and relatives.

Generally speaking, Sandy High students were satisfied with their general non-vocational education as well as the quality of instruction. One of the most interesting findings of the follow-up was the high ranking (closer to "very satisfied" than "satisfied") given their vocational programs by the Vocational Completer group.

While in high school the students were satisfied with their instruction given them in "How to Look for a Job," "Preparing Job Resumes," and "Job Interviewing." After being out of high school for a year and encountering the real world of employment, they wished they had gotten more training.

Further information on this study can be obtained from: Dr. W. A. Rumbaugh, Director, Career Center, Sandy Union High School, 17100 Bluff Road, Sandy, Oregon 97055. The phone is (503)668-8011.